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Arthur R. Crawford NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C. 1100 North Glebe Road Eighth Floor Arlington, Virginia 22201-4714

Dear Mr. Crawford:

This is in response to your letter received 27 December 2002 inquiring about the status of papers filed 16 April 2002 in U.S. patent application 10/048,122. A reivew of the application file reveals that the declaration of the inventors, an assignment document and the Information Disclosure Statement were received in the Office on 26 March 2004. The application is being processed by the U.S. Designated/Elected Office and an Office action will soon be issued. All further inquiries about the status of this application may be addressed to Examiner Christine Washington at telephone number (703) 305-3752.

Sincerely,

Nguyên Ngoc-Hô Paralegal Specialist PCT Legal Office

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